WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flexible fiberoptic endoscope comprising a flexible elongate insertion shaft, said insertion shaft being formed along an outer surface with at least one longitudinally extending channel longitudinally traversable by an elongate endoscopic instrument, said channel having a longitudinally extending slot through said outer surface.

2. The endoscope defined in claim 1, further comprising a closure member removably connected to said insertion shaft to close said slot.

3. The endoscope defined in claim 2 wherein said channel has a distal end opening and proximal end opening, said slot extending from said distal end opening to said proximal end opening, said closure member closing said slot while maintaining said distal end opening and said proximal end opening unobstructed.

4. The endoscope defined in claim 3 wherein said closure member is an endoscope sheath circumferentially surrounding said insertion shaft.

5. The endoscope defined in claim 4, further comprising a catheter removably disposed in said channel.

6. The endoscope defined in claim 5 wherein said catheter is fastened to said sheath.

7. The endoscope defined in claim 4 wherein said sheath is an elongate strip wound about said insertion shaft and provided with an adhesive closure.

8. The endoscope defined in claim 3 wherein said insertion shaft is formed with a pair of opposing edges along said slot, said closure member being an elongate strip removably attached to said insertion shaft at said edges.

9. The endoscope defined in claim 8 wherein at least one of said closure member and said insertion shaft is provided with a groove, the other of said closure member and said insertion shaft being inserted into said groove to removably attach said closure member to said insertion shaft.

10. The endoscope defined in claim 2 wherein said closure member is slidably connected to said insertion shaft, said closure member being provided with an entrainment element for facilitating manipulation of said closure member to slide said closure member along said slot.

11. The endoscope defined in claim 10, wherein said entrainment member is a pull tab.

12. The endoscope defined in claim 1, further comprising a catheter disposed in said channel.

13. The endoscope defined in claim 12, further comprising a closure member attached to said insertion member and disposed over said channel and said catheter.

14. The endoscope defined in claim 13 wherein said closure member is a sheath surrounding said insertion shaft.

15. The endoscope defined in claim 12 wherein said catheter is held in said channel in a snap lock fit.

16. The endoscope defined in claim 12 wherein said catheter is provided at a proximal end with connectors for coupling said catheter to a source of irrigation fluid and a source of suction.

17. The endoscope defined in claim 1 wherein at a proximal end said channel terminates at an entry port bifurcated with respect to and diverging from said shaft, further comprising a biopsy channel liner removably disposed in said channel and extending at a proximal end out of said entry port, an end cap being fitted to said liner at said entry port.

18. The endoscope defined in claim 17 wherein said entry port defines a closed lumen communicating with said channel.

19. The endoscope defined in claim 17 wherein said channel continues open along said entry port.

20. The endoscope defined in claim 1 wherein said channel extends from a proximal end portion of said insertion shaft to a distal tip thereof.

21. The endoscope defined in claim 1 wherein said channel has a mostly circular cross-section divided by said slot, said channel being defined by a surface of said insertion member having a C-shaped cross-section.

22. The endoscope defined in claim 1 wherein said channel is a one of a pair of channels formed along said outer surface of said insertion shaft, said channels being circumferentially spaced from one another.

23. The endoscope defined in claim 1, further comprising a sheath disposed about said insertion shaft.

24. An endoscope assembly comprising:

an elongate flexible endoscope insertion member provided with at least one channel along an outer cylindrical surface, said channel being open along said surface; and

an elongate closure member removably attachable to said insertion member so as to close said channel along said cylindrical surface.

25. The assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said closure member is a sheath.

26. The assembly defined in claim 25 wherein said sheath is an elongate strip windable about said insertion shaft and provided with an adhesive closure.

27. The assembly defined in claim 26, further comprising a catheter removably disposable in said channel.

28. The assembly defined in claim 27 wherein said catheter is fastened to said sheath.

29. The assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said insertion shaft is formed with a slot defined by a pair of opposing edges along said slot, said slot communicating with said channel, said closure member being an elongate strip removably attached to said insertion shaft at said edges.

30. The endoscope defined in claim 29 wherein said closure member is slidably connected to said insertion shaft, said closure member being provided with an entrainment element for facilitating manipulation of said closure member to slide said closure member along said slot.

31. The endoscope defined in claim 30, wherein said entrainment member is a pull tab.

32. The assembly defined in claim 29 wherein at least one of said closure member and said insertion shaft is provided with a groove, the other of said closure member and said insertion shaft being insertable into said groove to removably attach said closure member to said insertion shaft.

33. The assembly defined in claim 24, further comprising a catheter disposable in said channel.

34. The assembly defined in claim 33 wherein at a proximal end said channel terminates at an entry port bifurcated with respect to and diverging from said insertion member, said catheter being extendable at a proximal end out of said entry port, an end cap being provided on said catheter.

35. The assembly defined in claim 34 wherein said entry port defines a closed lumen communicating with said channel.

36. The assembly defined in claim 34 wherein said channel continues open along said entry port.

37. The assembly defined in claim 33, further comprising a closure member attachable to said insertion shaft and disposed over said channel and said catheter.

38. The assembly defined in claim 37 wherein said closure member is a sheath attachable to said insertion shaft so as to surround said insertion shaft.

39. The assembly defined in claim 33 wherein said catheter is held in said channel in a snap lock fit.

40. The assembly defined in claim 33 wherein said catheter is provided at a proximal end with connectors for coupling said catheter to a source of irrigation fluid and a source of suction.

41. The assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said channel extends from a proximal end portion of said insertion shaft to a distal tip thereof.

42. The assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said channel has a mostly circular cross-section divided by a slot, said channel being defined by a surface of said insertion member having a C-shaped cross-section.

43. The assembly defined in claim 24 wherein said channel is a one of a pair of channels formed along said outer surface of said insertion shaft, said channels being circumferentially spaced from one another.